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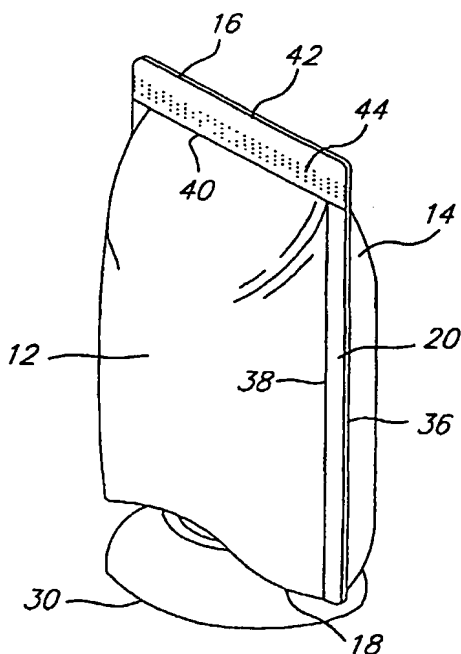
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE POUCH AND METHOD OF FORMING A FLEXIBLE POUCH



(57) Abstract: A flexible pouch (10) for packaging a product, such as a carbonated beverage, is provided that includes a front panel (12) joined to a back panel (14) each having an upper edge (16), a lower edge (18) and side edge (20). The pouch includes a first closing seal (40) extending along the upper edge formed a predetermined length from an open edge and a second closing seal (42) extending between the first closing seal and the upper edges.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34396

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : B65D 30/22; B65B 7/00 US CL : 383/38, 40, 116, 66, 80, 107; 53/469 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 383/38, 40, 116, 66, 80, 107; 53/469 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,304,977 A (HAMMONS) 21 February 1967 (21.02.1967), entire document.	
A	US 3,924,008 A (FORD et al.) 02 December 1975 (02.12.1975), entire document.	
A	US 4,361,235 A (GAUTIER) 30 November 1982 (30.11.1982), entire document.	
A	US 6,422,753 B1 (THOMAS) 23 June 2002 (23.06.2002), entire document.	
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"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 04 August 2004 (04.08.2004)		Date of mailing of the international search report 19 AUG 2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Jes F. Pascua Telephone No. 703-308-1078 <i>Sheila H. Veney</i> Patrol Legal Specialist Tech. Center 3700

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34396

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

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- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a flexible pouch.

Group II, claims 8-24, drawn to a method of forming and filling a flexible pouch.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the product of Group I was known in the art, therefore the product of Group I was not applicant's contribution over the prior art.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Jes F. Pascua Telephone No. 703-308-1078 <i>Sheila H. Vencey</i> <i>Paralegal Specialist</i> <i>Tech. Center 3700</i>

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